



Colorado Food Bank Association Digest

"Building a well nourished Colorado through education, advocacy and resource development"

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www.cofoodbanks.org



Local Perspective - School's Out for Summer, Food Bank for Larimer County

In a few weeks the schools in Larimer County will close for the summer. While the students may look forward to unstructured time, for parents whose children qualify for free or reduced lunches at school, summer means additional demands on the food budget, with no guarantee that the food will be as nutritious.

As the Food Bank for Larimer County starts its fourth summer of Kids Cafe, a pattern is evident that shows Kids Cafe filling a critical void for low-income families during the summer months. When the Kids Cafe program was launched in Larimer County in the summer of 2005 we served an average of 130 lunches per day. In 2007 we averaged 372 per day, (unduplicated). Kids Cafe provides children ages 3-18 meals at four sites during the school year and five, possibly six during the summer months in Loveland, Fort Collins and Wellington. The meals are prepared in the Food Bank for Larimer County's kitchen and meet U.S. Department of Agriculture meal component and quality requirements. The meals are served at existing program sites for children, such as Boys and Girls Club locations. Because the Food Bank is able to glean 30-40 percent of the food from our warehouse of donated food, the cost per meal is only \$1.32 (.22) is for milk.

During the school year parents report that they appreciate picking up children who have had a quality meal so they do not have to produce something from an empty cupboard or prepare a meal and then start homework. However, during the summer the numbers more than double and the parents, staff of the independent programs at the Kids Cafe sites and the Food Bank for Larimer County have to ask: **How would they be filling this nutritional void without Kids Cafe?** The cost benefit ratio speaks for itself.

National Perspective - Excerpt from CNNMoney.com, May 1, 2008

Food costs hit middle America. Americans spent an average of \$1,926 on groceries per person in 2007, a 4.2% increase from the prior year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The department projects another 4.5% increase in 2008, to \$2,013. Certain foods have spiked dramatically over the past year. The price of eggs surged nearly 30%, while milk and flour jumped more than 13% and rice rose nearly 10%, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Food inflation has become a global problem. This year, [food riots](#) have broken out in Egypt, Haiti, Yemen, Bangladesh and other nations. On Tuesday, the United Nations formed a [task force](#) to deal with the problem.

Even in America, the specter of hunger is growing for many low-income families, including former high-income earners who recently lost their jobs. George Braley, senior vice-president of America's Second Harvest, the largest hunger-relief organization in the U.S., testified that the rising prices are taking their toll, as annual donations to the organization "remain frozen" at \$140 million. "Costs are eating up our surpluses," said Braley. "We need to buy more food, but the money is not there. These are very discouraging times."

State Perspective

As the session closes, I'd like for you to keep in mind two key statistics about the state of Colorado.

1. Colorado ranks **5th in States** with an increase of **31.4% in food insecurity** from 1999 to 2004 (Center on Hunger)
2. **12% of households** in Colorado are **food insecure**, or food insecure with hunger (Household Food Security in the United States, USDA - 2006)

Often times, since we live in a state with beautiful mountains and great tourism, we tend to forget that people are hungry. Our struggle as the CFBA is the need to secure nutritional food for the member food banks. Food costs are rising, transportation costs are extreme and citizens from this state are increasingly hungry. Colorado as a state, currently donates **no funding** to support the food banks. Even smaller states such as New Mexico designate \$400,000 for the food banks from the state budget. We need you! Help us help the very people in this state that need the most help! Join us for a tour of the food banks across the state on **Tuesday, September 9, 2008**. Please mark your calendars.



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Colorado Food Bank Association State Food Bank Tour for Elected Officials! Save the Date!

When: Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Where: Beginning at one of the five member food banks.

Time: Beginning at 8:00 a.m.

What: Tour food banks across the state to see hunger efforts in action! Learn more about the work of food banks! Support the efforts!

